

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Engineer Exercise in the Bittkau Training Area

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EVALUATION 25X1

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PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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On 21 and 22 August 1952, an engineer exercise was conducted at the Bittkau (H 53/Y 33) training area on the Elbe River near Polte. About 250 engineers built a bridge across the Elbe River. About 22 soldiers drove piles at the bridge heads with a small pile driver. Thirty-six soldiers hauled planks and beams. Ten officers participated in the exercise. Four guns were emplaced at the bridge head near Polte. On 22 August, after the bridge was completed, it was crossed by T-34 tanks.

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In the afternoon on 22 August, the exercise was discontinued and the bridge was dismantled. Two large tents were erected on the road from Bittkau to Polte. A large number of motorcycle messengers were seen at the tents. There was also a medical tent and a field kitchen from which 64 soldiers were fed. Motor vehicles involved in the exercise

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* Comment. The exercise was probably conducted by an engineer battalion. Most of the motor vehicles participating in the exercise belong to the 7th Gds Tank Div. motor vehicles of this division at the Bittkau training grounds in early August 1952. It is therefore possible that the 121st (?) Gds Engr Bn of the aforementioned division conducted the exercise. This assumption is confirmed to some extent by motor vehicle which belongs to the Third Gds Recz Army in Jueterbog. The other motor vehicles seen at the troop training grounds belong to the aforementioned division and the Third Shock Army.

or the 107th Gds Engr Bn of the 94th Gds Itz Rifle Div, the 330th Engr Bn (US) of the 207th Itz Rifle Div, the 340th Engr Bn of the 13th Recz Div and probably other army engineer units or engineer units of the Third Shock Army.

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